

Regional best-sellers show varied interests of local readers

By Jerry Johnston

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For the most part, the reading tastes of Utahns match up with national trends. When Sidney Sheldon or Belva Plain top the country's bestseller lists, chances are they're selling well in St. George.

On the other hand, many regional books pack even more interest for Utah readers, but the books don't benefit from national hype.

Here are five Utah books that lead our list of "Regional Bestsellers." Take a look. All five have a local angle: a regional author, theme or publisher:

DALE MORGAN ON EARLY MORMONISM; CORRESPONDENCE AND A NEW HISTORY; Ed. by John Phillip Walker; Signature Books; 415 pages; \$20.95.

Mormon historian Dale Morgan died in 1971. Some thought his reputation and work may fade with him. It hasn't. In fact, there's something of a Morgan revival today. The Red Butte Press will be bringing out an expensive, limited, letter-press edition of the man's work soon and several scholars are hard at work on Morgan treatises. As the cover blurb claims, "... despite the passage of more than 20 years, these chapters and appendices remain today as fresh and thought-provoking as ever."

A PINCH OF SALT LAKE (THE JUNIOR LEAGUE COOKBOOK); Published by the Junior League; 272 pages; \$16.95 hardbound.

Reviewing this book in the Deseret News (Nov. 9, 1987), food editor Barbara Goldman claimed "... any food editor worth her salt will confirm that it's hard to beat a Junior League cookbook as resource material."

The book includes more than 400 tested recipes, with chapters on beverages, hors d'oeuvres and sweets. It's a something-for-everybody effort. Vegetarians and beef lovers, for instance, will both benefit.

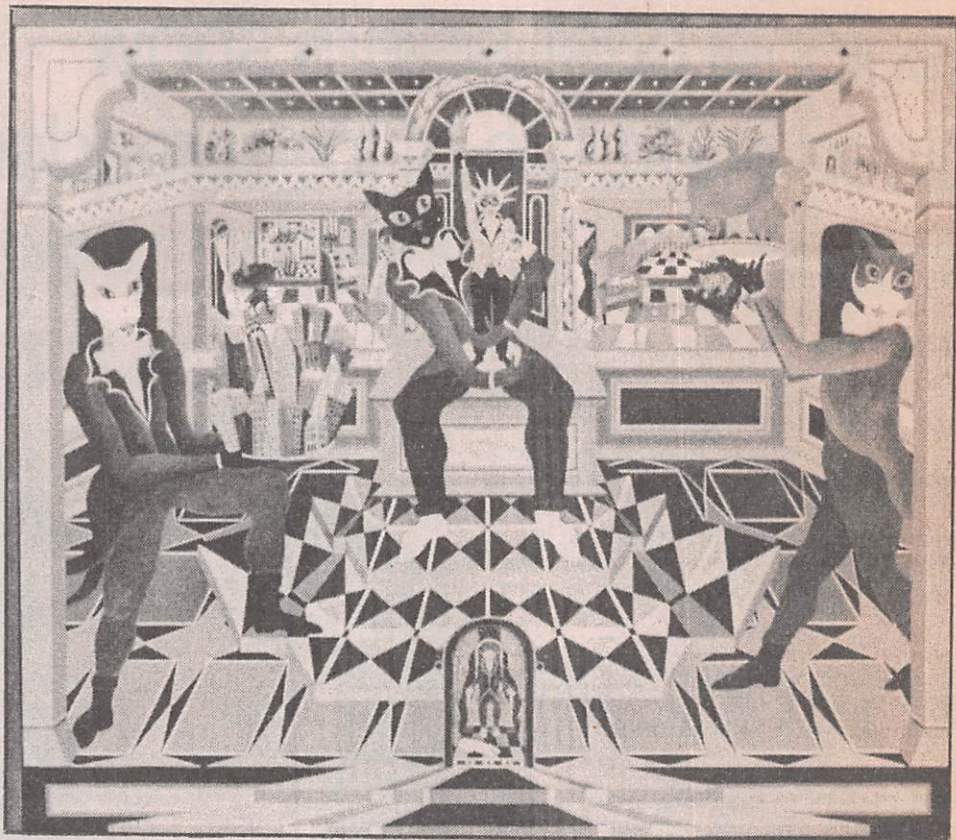


PORTER ROCKWELL: THE DEFINITIVE BIOGRAPHY; Richard Lloyd Dewey; Paramount Books; \$17.95; 573 pages.

Calling your book "the definitive biography" is a little like describing yourself as a "poet." It should be the lot of others to make that decision.

Still, "Porter Rockwell" is winning many admirers around the West. Carma Wadley called the book "well-researched, sympathetic and probably as complete as possible" in a Deseret News review (July 13, 1986). She felt the book tended to hype Rockwell, however, and there were problems with the author striving for effect.

Dewey has reworked his biography since it's release. He claims many of the hassles with tone, spelling and punctuation have been eliminated.



Patricia Forsberg purposefully distorts perspective in this whimsical painting, "Madame Will Take All," above, now on exhibit at the Bountiful/Davis Art Center.

